

The ADA has opened amazing doors for all people. Buildings, sidewalks and public transportation have become more accessible, allowing for ease in conducting everyday business. The use of screen-readers and voice-recognition software has brought the once unknown world of the Internet to all computer users. No longer will people with impaired vision or dexterity be limited to the available resources. The ADA has given employees with disabilities access to the tools they need to perform their job. Technological advances have been fully integrated into the workplace and I believe society is ready for the work-at-home employee.

As a member of the Bicameral Disabilities Caucus, I am a strong proponent for continued efforts to break down further barriers preventing our disabled community from living healthy, productive lives. With one in five Americans suffering from a debilitating ailment, we have a better understanding for the need to continue supporting both legislation and technology for tomorrow's generation.

Mr. Speaker, the Americans with Disabilities Act had the same impact on disabled Americans in the 1990s as did the Civil Rights Act had on African Americans back in the 1960s. I believe that the will of the people have spoken declaring not to discriminate against any person. With these pieces of legislation side-by-side on the same pedestal, we can observe our constantly changing, and more accepting, country and truly say that we are proud to be Americans.

ON THE PASSING OF NOLAN
HANCOCK

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, sadly I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues the passing of Nolan Hancock. Many of us have known Mr. Hancock as the former Legislative Director of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers International Union. Mr. Hancock died this week of a heart attack in West Valley City, Utah. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, four children, fourteen grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Nolan Hancock was an electrician by trade and an OCAW member for 48 years. For twenty-one years he worked in various local and international positions for the union. He retired five years ago after serving as Legislative Director for the union for 18 years.

Nolan Hancock worked with tremendous ability and integrity on behalf of the members of OCAW and all working Americans. Among the greatest privileges of being a Member of Congress is to work with people of the caliber of Mr. Hancock. I am proud to have known and worked with him.

ONE MORE REASON WHY RELIGIOUS IDEOLOGY SHOULD NOT DRIVE PUBLIC POLICY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, As critics predicted, Bush's goal to make faith-based institutions the primary deliverers of social services has led to them promoting their religious beliefs with government money. Today, the Washington Post reported that a Louisiana federal judge ruled that the state illegally used federal money to promote religion in its abstinence-only sex education programs.

How many more examples do we need before Bush abandons this failed social policy?

JUDGE ORDERS CHANGES IN ABSTINENCE PROGRAM

(By Ceci Connolly)

A federal judge in Louisiana ruled yesterday that the state illegally used federal money to promote religion in its abstinence-only sex education programs, a decision that could jeopardize President Bush's ambitions for expanding the effort nationwide.

U.S. District Judge G. Thomas Porteous Jr. ordered the state to stop giving money to individuals or organizations that "convey religious messages or otherwise advance, religion" with tax dollars. He said there was ample evidence that many of the groups participating in the Governor's Program on Abstinence were "furthering religious objectives."

Using government money to distribute Bibles, stage prayer rallies outside clinics that provide abortions and perform skits with characters that preach Christianity violate the Constitution's separation of church and state, he ruled.

One group in its monthly report talked about using the Christmas message of Mary as a prime example of the virtue of abstinence.

"December was an excellent month for our program," the Rapides Station Community Ministries said in a report quoted by the court. "We were able to focus on the virgin birth and make it apparent that God's desire [sic] sexual purity as a way of life."

Gov. Mike Foster (R) expressed dismay over the decision and said he would review the state's legal options.

"It's a sad day when such a worthwhile program is attacked by the very people who are supposed to protect the interests of the citizens of Louisiana," he said.

The suit, filed in May by the American Civil Liberties Union, was the first legal challenge to abstinence-only programs created under the 1996 welfare reform legislation. Bush has asked Congress to extend the \$50 million-a-year program and increase other federal abstinence grants from \$40 million this year to \$73 million next year.

Cities, states or organizations that receive the federal grants must use the money to teach abstinence as the only reliable way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Supporters say abstinence education helps youngsters build character and develop the skills to "say no to sex." Grant recipients may not discuss contraception, except in the context of failure rates of condoms.

"Today's decision should stand as a wake-up call that this practice is unacceptable," said Catherine Weiss, director of the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project.

The ruling was also a victory for liberals and public health advocates who argue that

abstinence-until-marriage programs are unrealistic and put young people in danger of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Abstinence-only "is not a public health program," said James Wagoner, president of Advocates for Youth, which lobbies for broad-based sex education. "This is either ideology or religious instruction trying to pass itself off as public health."

The most recent, detailed analyses have concluded "the jury is still out" when it comes to teaching abstinence, said health researcher Douglas Kirby.

Wagoner called on policymakers to conduct audits of the abstinence programs similar to the current federal investigation of other types of sex education and HIV prevention programs.

Bill Pierce, spokesman for the Department of Health and Human Services, said the administration "remains deeply committed" to both abstinence-only programs and faith-based initiatives.

Weiss and Wagoner said that the misuse of abstinence money went beyond Louisiana and that they had begun to collect evidence of other instances of proselytizing. Many have close ties to the anti-abortion movement, they said.

Three weeks ago, HHS awarded \$27 million in new abstinence grants to numerous organizations with religious affiliations. Weiss acknowledged that it is constitutional to funnel tax money to religious groups as long as the money is used for secular purposes.

During a court hearing last month, Dan Richey, head of the Louisiana program, testified that the state had stopped subsidizing religious activities or overwhelmingly religious groups.

Porteous acknowledged the changes but added, "The Court does, however, feel the need to install legal safeguards to ensure the GPA [Governor's Program on Abstinence] does not fund 'pervasively sectarian' institutions in the future."

TRIBUTE TO NELLIE M. MCKAY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful community activist and dedicated humanitarian. Mrs. Nellie M. McKay will turn 73 years old on July 27th and her birthday is cause for great celebration.

Nellie was born in 1929 to two hard-working parents, Polly and Alex Brown. She grew up with ten brothers and sisters and learned the importance of sharing and support at a young age. Nellie has applied these values throughout her life as a community activist. New York was fortunate enough to become home to Nellie in 1950, when she immediately became a volunteer with the Baby Tracks program at the old Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx. She also lent her time and energy to the Prosthesis Clinic at St. Luke's Hospital, easing the spirits of patients there. Nellie was a key player in the immunization program at local public schools, which is a crucial initiative for under resourced schools, especially during those times.

Mr. Speaker, Nellie has always been committed to helping those around her and she has also been committed to educating and fostering awareness in those around her. Having earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from